

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**SEAN ACKERLEY,**

**Plaintiff,**

**-against-**

**STEVEN DUFFY, THE COUNTY OF :  
SULLIVAN, NEW YORK; MICHAEL A. :  
SCHIFF, Sheriff of the Sullivan County Sheriff's :  
Department; THE SULLIVAN COUNTY :  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, JENNIFER :  
DeCAMPOS, LAWRENCE THEIL, GARRETT :  
GABRIEL and JARED COSENCHUCK, :**

**Defendants.**

**07 CIV. 3508**  
**Judge ROBINSON**

**ANSWER**

Defendant COUNTY OF SULLIVAN, JENNIFER DeCAMPOS, LAWRENCE THIEL,<sup>1</sup>  
and GARRET GABRIEL, by their attorney, SAMUEL S. YASGUR, County Attorney  
for the County of Sullivan, as and for their Verified Answer to the Verified Complaint,  
say and allege as follows:

1. Deny having sufficient knowledge or information to determine whether the allegations set forth in Paragraph “1” of the Verified Complaint are true or false.
2. Admit the allegations set forth in Paragraph “2” of the Verified Complaint.

<sup>1</sup> Deputy Thiel's and Deputy Gabriel's names are mis-spelled in the caption.

3. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “3” of the Verified Complaint but admit that the Sullivan County Sheriff’s Department is a Department of the Sullivan County Government.
4. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “4” of the Verified Complaint but admit that Defendant Schiff is the duly elected Sheriff of Sullivan County and admit that one of the functions of the Sheriff’s Department is the operation of the Sullivan County jail.
5. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “5” of the Verified Complaint but admit that the operation of the Sullivan County jail is one of the functions of the Sullivan County Sheriff’s Department.
6. Admit the allegations set forth in Paragraph “6” of the Verified Complaint.
7. Admit that Plaintiff asserts that the nature of the action is as set forth in Paragraph “7” of the Verified Complaint but deny that there is any validity to the action.
8. Admit the allegations set forth in Paragraph “8” of the Verified Complaint.
9. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “9” of the Verified Complaint and deny that the Defendants DeCampos, Thiel and Gabriel committed any of the acts alleged to have been committed by them.

10. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “10” of the Verified Complaint and deny that the Defendant Sheriff committed any of the acts alleged to have been wrongfully committed by him.
11. Admit that Plaintiff seeks to assert supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to Paragraph “11” of the Verified Complaint but deny there is a basis for such assertion of supplemental jurisdiction.

### **PLAINTIFF’S STATEMENT OF CLAIMS**

#### **As Against Defendant Duffy**

12. Defendants DeCampos, Thiel and Gabriel repeat and re-allege each and every response to Paragraphs “1” through “11” of the Verified Complaint as if more fully set forth herein.
13. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “13” of the Verified Complaint but admit that during portions of the period from April 29, 2006 through December 19, 2006 Plaintiff was an inmate in the Sullivan County Jail and that during other portions of that period Plaintiff was incarcerated outside of Sullivan County.
14. Deny having sufficient knowledge and information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph “14” of the Verified Complaint and state that medical information is confidential, that Defendants

DeCampos, Thiel and Gabriel had no access to such information and further state there was no information indicating a diagnosis of schizophrenia on Plaintiff's suicide prevention questionnaire, and that there was no indication on Plaintiff's intake form that Plaintiff could not be placed in the general population, but, upon information and belief, state that as a result of prior experience with Plaintiff during prior incarcerations Plaintiff was placed in the medical/mental unit of the jail.

15. Deny having sufficient knowledge or information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph "15" of the Verified Complaint.
16. Deny having sufficient knowledge or information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph "16" of the Verified Complaint.
17. Deny having sufficient knowledge or information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph "17" of the Verified Complaint, and, upon information and belief, deny that B Block was empty on April 30, 2006.

18. Deny having sufficient knowledge or information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph “18” of the Verified Complaint.
19. Deny having sufficient knowledge or information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph “19” of the Verified Complaint.
20. Deny having sufficient knowledge or information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph “20” of the Verified Complaint.
21. Deny having sufficient knowledge or information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph “21” of the Verified Complaint.
22. Deny having sufficient knowledge or information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph “22” of the Verified Complaint.
23. Deny having sufficient knowledge or information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph “23” of the Verified Complaint.

24. Deny having sufficient knowledge or information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph “24” of the Verified Complaint.
25. Deny having sufficient knowledge or information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph “25” of the Verified Complaint.
26. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “26” of the Verified Complaint.

**As against Defendants DeCampos, Thiel,  
Gabriel and Cosenchuck**

27. Defendants DeCampos, Thiel and Gabriel repeat and re-allege each and every response to Paragraphs “1” through “26” of the Verified Complaint as if more fully set forth herein.
28. Deny having sufficient knowledge and information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph “28” of the Verified Complaint.

29. Deny having sufficient knowledge and information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph “29” of the Verified Complaint.
30. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “30” of the Verified Complaint.
31. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “31” of the Verified Complaint.
32. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “32” of the Verified Complaint.
33. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “33” of the Verified Complaint.
34. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “34” of the Verified Complaint.
35. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “35” of the Verified Complaint.

**As Against Defendants County, Schiff and Sheriff’s Department**

36. Defendants DeCampos, Thiel and Gabriel repeat and re-allege each and every response to Paragraphs “1” through “35” of the Verified Complaint as if more fully set forth herein.
37. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph “37” of the Verified Complaint.

38. Deny having sufficient knowledge or information so as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph "28" of the Verified Complaint but, upon information and belief assert that the Plaintiff was seen by the jail psychiatrist on more than one occasion during his period of incarceration in Sullivan County in 2006.
39. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph "39" of the Verified Complaint.
40. Deny having sufficient knowledge and information so as to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in Paragraph "40" of the Verified Complaint.
41. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph "41" of the Verified Complaint.
42. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph "42" of the Verified Complaint.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST FULL AND  
COMPLETE DEFENSE BY DEFENDANTS  
THIEL, DeCAMPOS AND GABRIEL**

43. Plaintiff has failed to set forth a claim upon which relief can be granted as to Defendants Thiel, DeCampos and Gabriel.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND FULL AND  
COMPLETE DEFENSE BY DEFENDANTS  
THIEL, DeCAMPOS AND GABRIEL**



44. Plaintiff's Constitutional and statutory rights were not violated by the answering Defendants.

**AS AND FOR A THIRD FULL AND  
COMPLETE DEFENSE BY DEFENDANTS  
THIEL, DeCAMPOS AND GABRIEL**

45. The answering Defendants did not act outside of the scope of their authority or duties.

**AS AND FOR A FOURTH FULL AND  
COMPLETE DEFENSE BY DEFENDANTS  
THIEL, DeCAMPOS AND GABRIEL**

46. The answering Defendants are entitled to the defense of qualified immunity.

**AS AND FOR A FIFTH FULL AND  
COMPLETE DEFENSE BY DEFENDANTS  
THIEL, DeCAMPOS AND GABRIEL**

47. None of the answering Defendants engaged in any activity which was intended to deprive Plaintiff of his rights. Accordingly, Plaintiff is not entitled to punitive damages against any of the answering Defendants.

**AS AND FOR A SIXTH FULL AND  
COMPLETE DEFENSE BY DEFENDANTS  
THIEL, DeCAMPOS AND GABRIEL**

48. None of the answering Defendants engaged in any willful, malicious or illegal behavior with regard to Plaintiff. Accordingly, Plaintiff is not entitled to punitive damages against any of the answering Defendants.

**AS AND FOR A SEVENTH FULL AND  
COMPLETE DEFENSE BY DEFENDANTS  
THIEL, DeCAMPOS AND GABRIEL**

49. None of the answering Defendants engaged in any activity which was spiteful or wanton with regard to Plaintiff. Accordingly, Plaintiff is not entitled to punitive damages against any of the answering Defendants.

**AS AND FOR A EIGHTH FULL AND  
COMPLETE DEFENSE BY DEFENDANTS  
THIEL, DeCAMPOS AND GABRIEL**

50. The actions of the answering Defendants were at all times lawful and proper.

**AS AND FOR A NINTH FULL AND  
COMPLETE DEFENSE BY DEFENDANTS  
THIEL, DeCAMPOS AND GABRIEL**

51. The answering Defendants at all times acted in good faith and did not violate Plaintiff's rights.

**AS AND FOR A TENTH FULL AND**

**COMPLETE DEFENSE BY DEFENDANTS  
THIEL, DeCAMPOS AND GABRIEL**

52. In the event a trier of fact should determine that Plaintiff sustained any damages, other than by reason of his own negligence or conduct, then such damages were caused in whole or in part by a person or persons other than the answering Defendants and the answering Defendants are not liable for such damages.

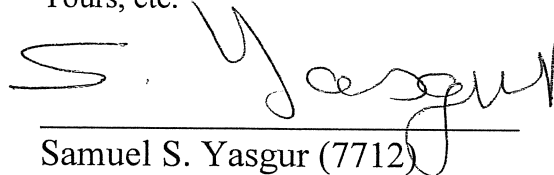
**AS AND FOR A ELEVENTH FULL AND  
COMPLETE DEFENSE BY DEFENDANTS  
THIEL, DeCAMPOS AND GABRIEL**

53. The actions of the answering Defendants were at all times justified.

**WHEREFORE**, Defendant Thiel, DeCampos and Gabriel respectfully pray the Verified Complaint be dismissed as to them with costs and disbursements.

Dated: Monticello, New York  
June 18, 2007

Yours, etc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Yasgur', written over a horizontal line.

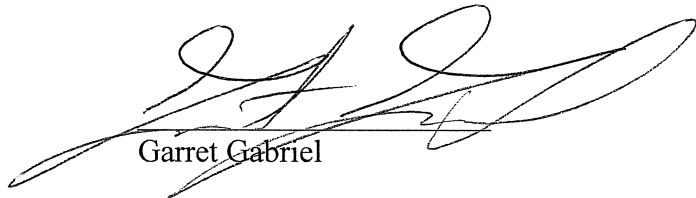
Samuel S. Yasgur (7712)  
County Attorney  
County of Sullivan  
Attorney for all Defendants  
County Government Center  
100 North Street  
Monticello, New York  
(845) 794-3000

**VERIFICATION**

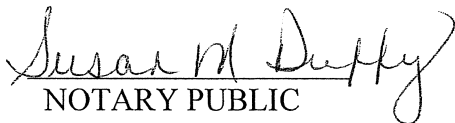
STATE OF NEW YORK    )  
                                      ) ss.:  
COUNTY OF SULLIVAN    )

**Garret Gabriel**, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1.     I am a Correctional Officer for Sullivan County Sheriff's Office.
2.     I have read the foregoing Verified Answer and know the contents thereof. The same is true to my knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe it to be true.

  
Garret Gabriel

Sworn to before me this  
18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2007.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

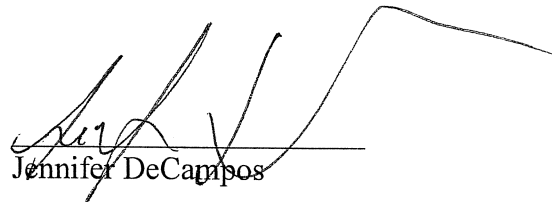
**Susan M. Duffy**  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified in Ulster County  
Commission Expires Dec. 8, 2010  
Reg. No. 01DU4876358

VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK     )  
                                      ) ss.:  
COUNTY OF SULLIVAN    )

**Jennifer DeCampos**, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am a Correctional Officer for Sullivan County Sheriff's Office.
2. I have read the foregoing Verified Answer and know the contents thereof. The same is true to my knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe it to be true.

  
Jennifer DeCampos

Sworn to before me this  
18th day of June, 2007.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

**Susan M. Duffy**  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified in Ulster County  
Commission Expires Dec. 8, 2010  
Reg. No. 01DU4876358

VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK     )  
  ) ss.:  
COUNTY OF SULLIVAN    )

**Lawrence Thiel**, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1.     I am a Correctional Officer for Sullivan County Sheriff's Office.
2.     I have read the foregoing Verified Answer and know the contents thereof. The same is true to my knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe it to be true.

  
Lawrence Thiel

Sworn to before me this  
18th day of June, 2007.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

Susan M. Duffy  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified in Ulster County  
Commission Expires Dec. 8, 2010  
Reg. No. 01DU4876358

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ECF CASE 07 CIV. 3508

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SEAN ACKERLY

Plaintiff,

-against-

STEVEN DUFFY, THE COUNTY OF SULLIVAN, NEW YORK; MICHAEL A.  
SCHIFF, Sheriff of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department; THE SULLIVAN COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, JENNIFER DeCAMPOS, LAWRENCE THEIL, GARRETT  
GABRIEL and JARED COSENCHUCK,

Defendants.

---

**ANSWER**

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SAMUEL S. YASGUR  
SULLIVAN COUNTY ATTORNEY  
Office and Post Office Address, Telephone  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
Monticello, New York 12701  
(845)794-3000, EXT. 3565

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To

Attorney(s) for

Service of a copy of the within  
Dated,

is hereby admitted.

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Sir: - Please take notice

NOTICE OF ENTRY

that the within is a (certified) true copy of a  
duly entered in the office of the clerk of the within named court on 2006

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT

that an order of which the within is a true copy will be presented for  
settlement to the HON. one of the judges

of the within named court, at  
on 2006 at M.  
Dated,

Yours, etc.

To

Attorney(s) for Respondent

Sullivan County Attorney  
Office and Post Office Address  
County Government Center  
Monticello, New York 12701